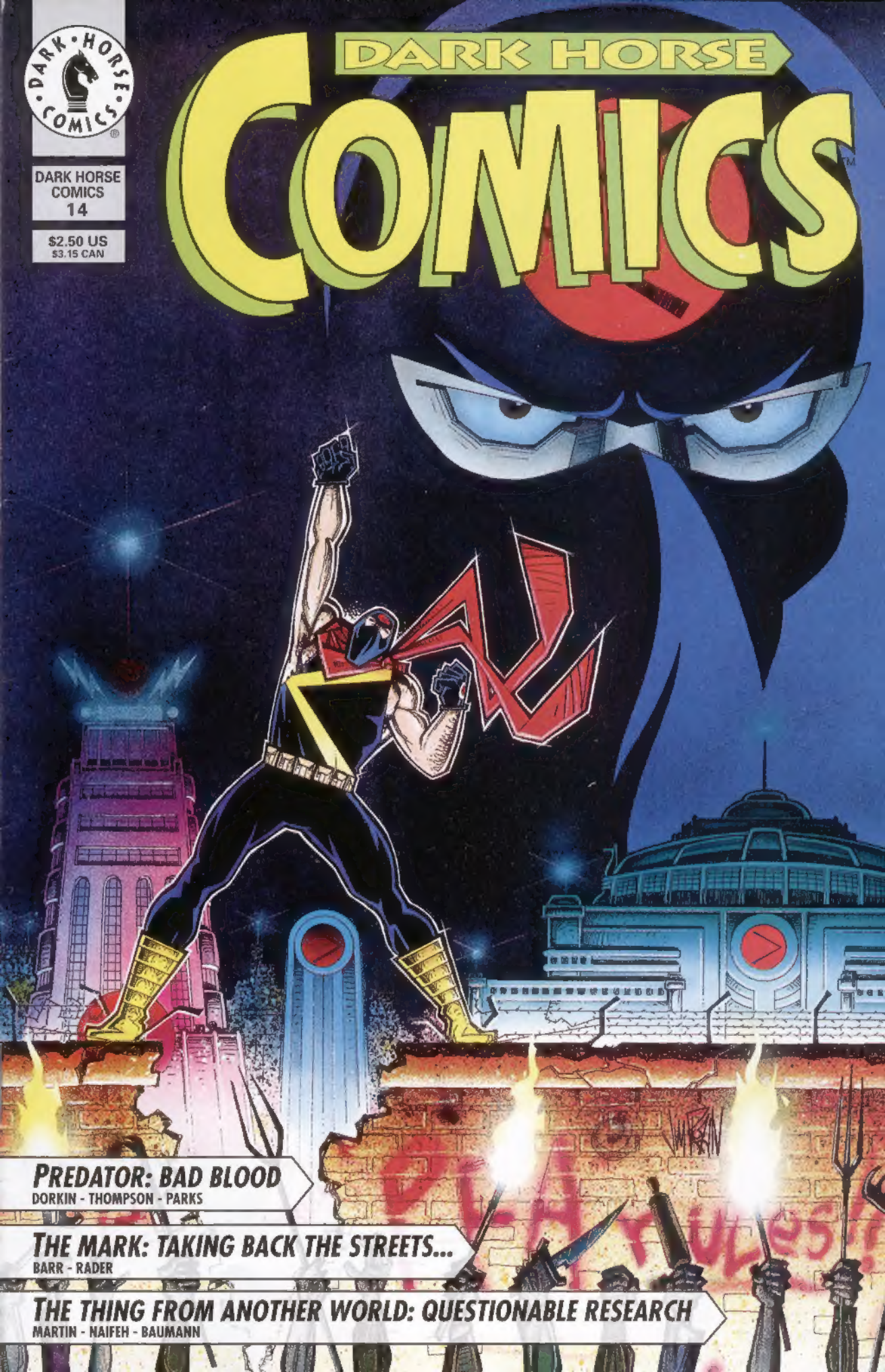
DARK HORSE COMICS
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DORKIN - THOMPSON - PARKS
THE MARK: TAKING BACK THE STREETS...
BARR - RADER
THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD: QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH
MARTIN - NAIFEH - BAUMANN

DARK HORSE #14 COMICS™

THE MARK: TAKING BACK THE STREETS... 1

PART 1 OF 2
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SCRIPT: MIKE W. BARR
ART: BRADLEY C. RADER
LETTERER: CLEM ROBINS
COLORS: JOHN A. WILCOX
STORY EDITOR: BOB SCHRECK

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PART 3 OF 3
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LETTERER: PAT BROSSEAU
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PART 2 OF 4
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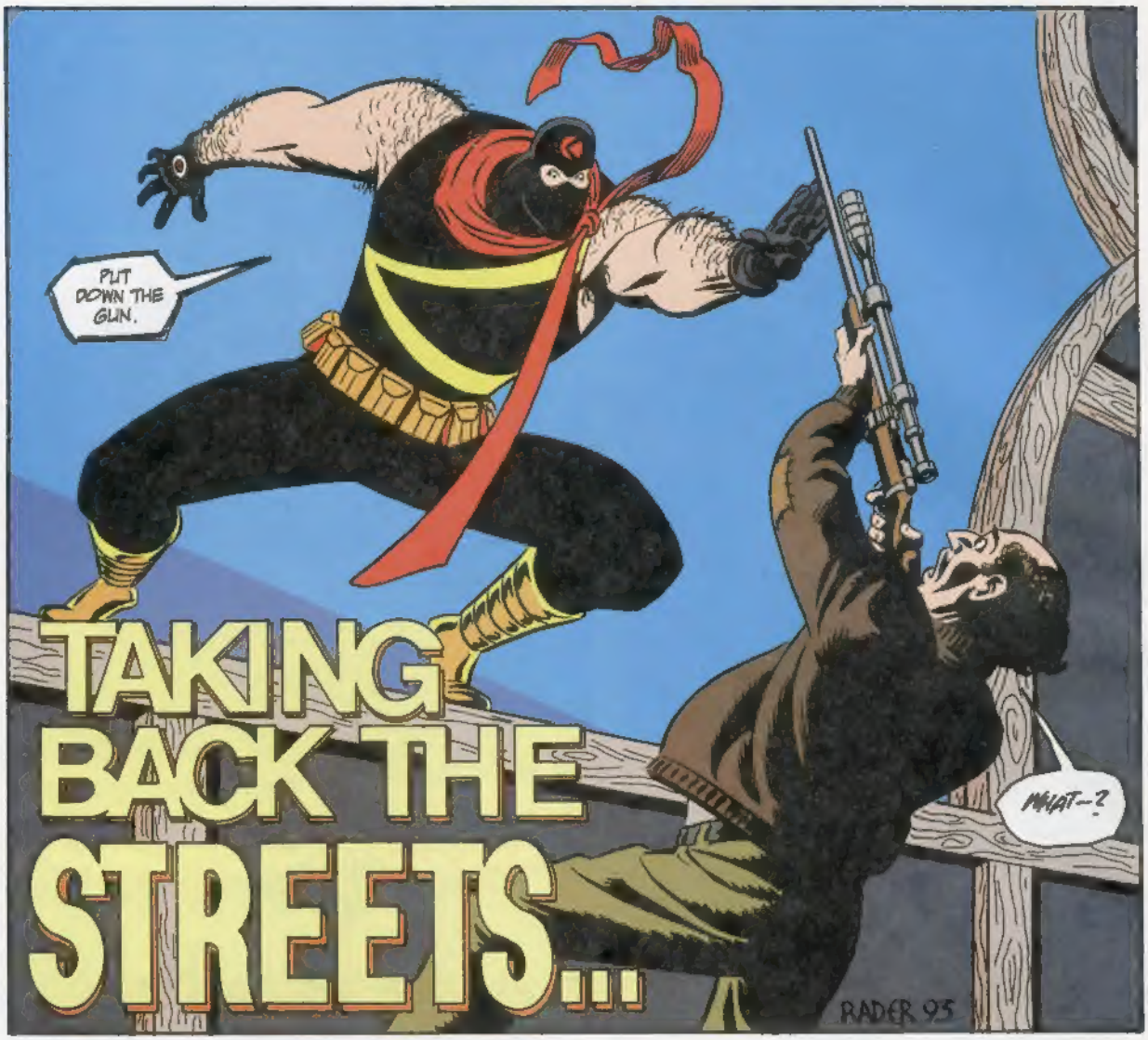
Printed in Canada

THE EUROPEAN COUNTRY OF LUTZANY, STEPHANGART AIRPORT.
...AND, AS A TOKEN OF OUR ESTEEM, ARCHON...
AIR LUTZANY
...A FAREWELL BOUQUET OF NATIVE FLOWERS PICKED BY THE CHILDREN OF LUTZANY.
FAREWELL, ARCHON.
RETURN TO US SOON, SIR.
MY PEOPLE... IT IS WITH SADNESS I LEAVE YOU, AND MY COUNTRY...
...BUT I DO SO, KNOWING IT IS LUTZANY'S DESTINY TO LEAVE HER COMFORTABLE ISOLATION, AND BECOME A WORLD POWER!
WE SHALL NOT BE SEPARATED LONG, FOR I WILL ADDRESS YOU FROM WASHINGTON IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
ZAP


PUT DOWN THE GUN.
TAKING BACK THE STREETS...
WHAT—?
RADER 93

PUT IT DOWN.

BUT...YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND...
TRAITOR!
BANG
KRAK

KRAKKT
THE MASKED TERRORIST!
FIRE AT WILL!
KRAK
BANG
HE HAS ESCAPED!
BUT HE LEFT HIS ALLY.

REDOUBLE THE PATROLS! I WANT THIS MAN ON DEATH ROW BY THE TIME THE ARCHON RETURNS!

NOT SO EASY TO HOLD THE REINS OF POWER AS IT LOOKS, eh, EBERHARDT? IF THE ARCHON HAD LEFT ME IN CHARGE...
BUT HE DID NOT, DR. STEWARD --AND I AM WILLING TO TRUST HIS INSTINCTS!

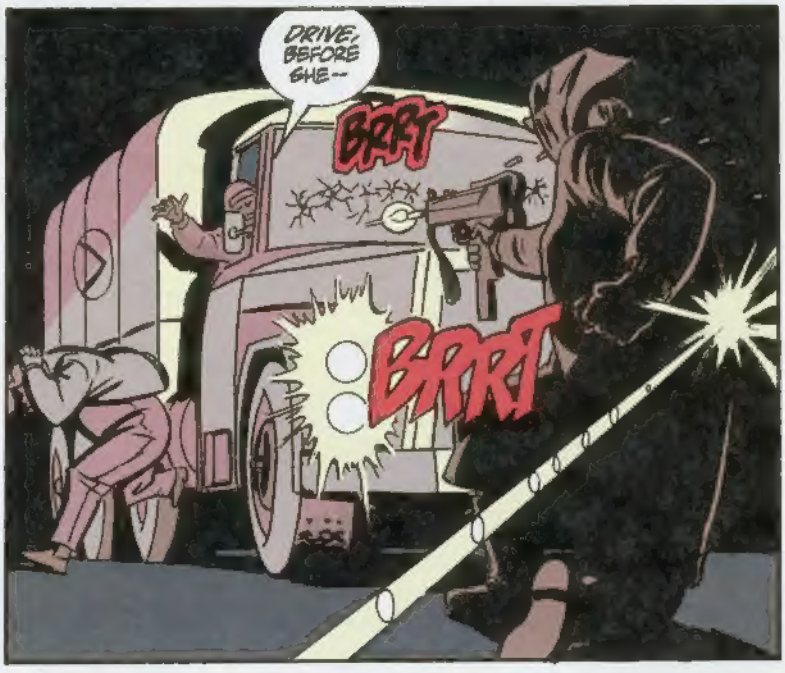
AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE DONE NO BETTER IN CAPTURING OUR MASKED QUARRY!
AHH, BUT EBERHARDT... HAS NOT THE ARCHON TAUGHT YOU...

"...WE LIVE FOR THE FUTURE..."
NO BUMPS, ERICH!
DON'T WORRY--
STEPHANGARD
40 KM

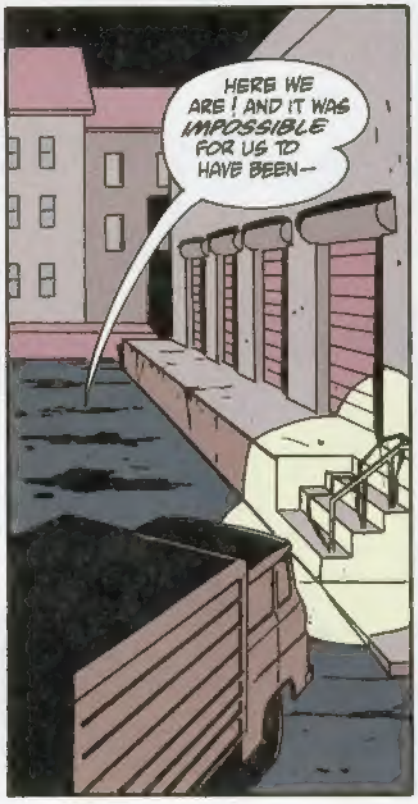
--I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SHAKING UP THIS CARGO!

EH?
PLEASE, HELP ME!

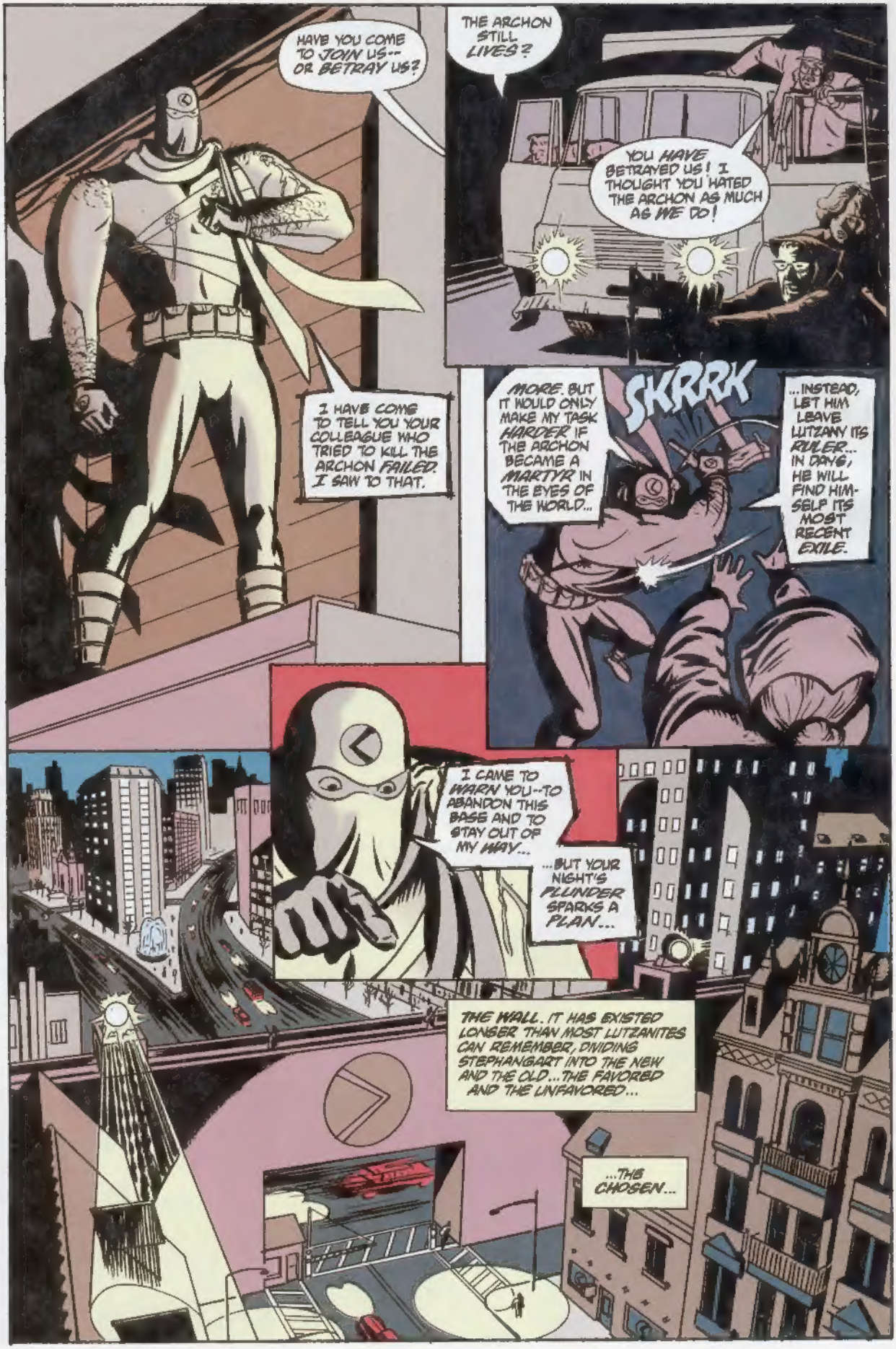
MY WIFE... SHE MAY BE DEAD! I DON'T--
WE WILL PHONE A REPORT FROM THE BASE, OLD MAN!
ERICH, LOOK!


DRIVE, BEFORE SHE--
BRRT
BRRT

THE ARCHON'S BUTCHERS MUST KNOW THE PEOPLE'S FREEDOM ARMY IS RESPONSIBLE!
QUICKLY, NOW--JOHANN, WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THAT!


HERE WE ARE! AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO HAVE BEEN--

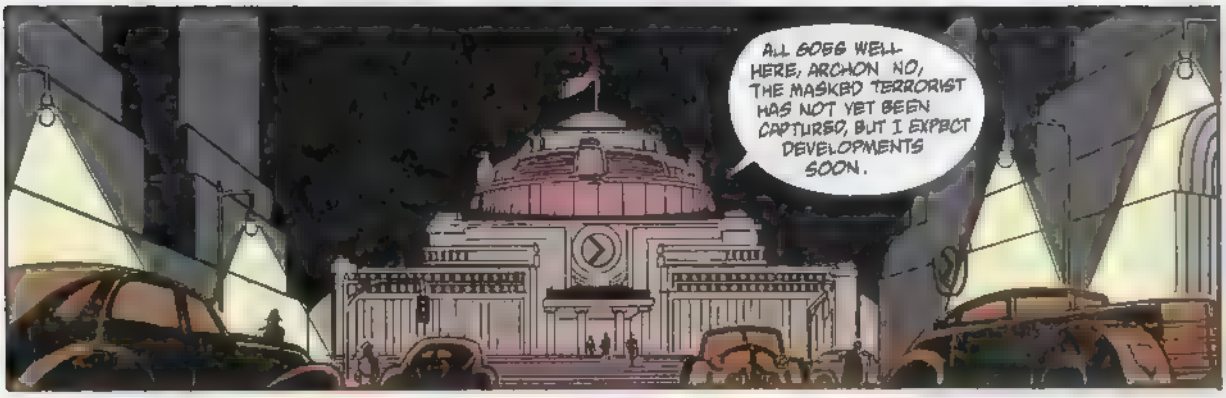
--FOLLOWED?
HIM!


HAVE YOU COME TO JOIN US-- OR BETRAY US?
I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU YOUR COLLEAGUE WHO TRIED TO KILL THE ARCHON FAILED. I SAW TO THAT.
THE ARCHON STILL LIVES?
YOU HAVE BETRAYED US! I THOUGHT YOU HATED THE ARCHON AS MUCH AS WE DO!
MORE. BUT IT WOULD ONLY MAKE MY TASK HARDER IF THE ARCHON BECAME A MARTYR IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD...
SKRRK
...INSTEAD, LET HIM LEAVE LUTZANY ITS RULER... IN DAYS, HE WILL FIND HIMSELF ITS MOST RECENT EXILE.
I CAME TO WARN YOU--TO ABANDON THIS BASE AND TO STAY OUT OF MY WAY...
...BUT YOUR NIGHT'S PLUNDER SPARKS A PLAN...
THE WALL. IT HAS EXISTED LONGER THAN MOST LUTZANITES CAN REMEMBER, DIVIDING STEPHANGART INTO THE NEW AND THE OLD...THE FAVORED AND THE UNFAVORED...
...THE CHOSEN...

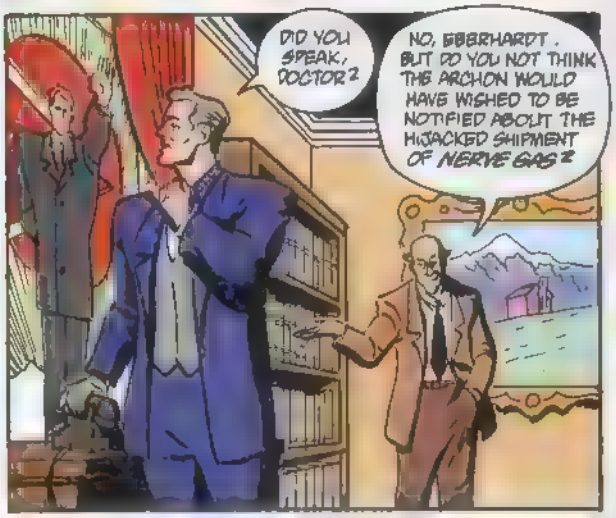
...AND THE MARKED--THOSE ON WHOM THE ARCHON HAS TURNED HIS BACK.
OUR GUEST ARRIVES, LARISSA. SOME TEA, IF YOU PLEASE.
WHY GRANDMERE? HE NEVER DRINKS IT.
I WOULD CAUTION YOU AGAINST BLEEDING ON THE FURNITURE, MY FRIEND, BUT I SEE THAT IS NOT NECESSARY.
AN ASSASSIN ATTEMPTED TO KILL THE ARCHON--THEN TRIED TO TAKE HIS FAILURE OUT ON ME. IT IS NOTHING.
AS LONG AS YOU ARE WELL. SOME TEA?
NO.
SIGH! I KNEW IT...
I HAVE PERSUADED THE PFA TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME. WE WILL SEIZE THIS COUNTRY FROM THE ARCHON'S HANDS DURING HIS ADDRESS FROM AMERICA. ARE YOU READY?
THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU WISH OF ME...
...IF YOU WISH ME TO ASCEND TO THE THRONE--THE THRONE THE ARCHON'S GRANDFATHER SEIZED FROM MY HUSBAND'S MURDERED HANDS--THEN I REFUSE. LUTZANY NO LONGER NEEDS A MONARCH.
WHY NOT, GRANDMERE? THE THRONE IS OURS! LUTZANY IS OURS!

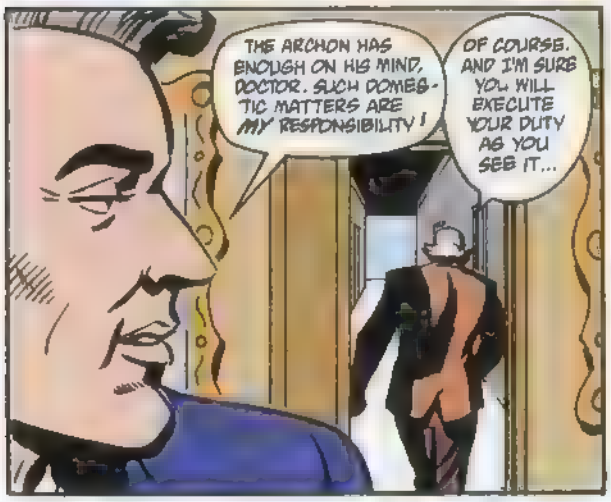
LARISSA, YOU SOUND LIKE YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER ...I LOVED HIM, BUT HE NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW THE TIMES WERE CHANGING. LUTZANY BELONGS TO ITS PEOPLE, NOT TO ITS RULER.
I WILL SERVE ONLY AS AN INTERIM RULER, UNTIL THE COUNTRY CAN ESTABLISH FREE ELECTIONS. IS THAT CLEAR?
PERFECTLY.
MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THE ARCHON WILL NOT PAY FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE TO LUTZANY! IN HIS QUEST TO CONTINUE HIS OWN LINE OF *UBERMENSCHEN*, HE HAS PITTED THE WEAK AGAINST THE STRONG...
...MADE HALF OF STEPHANGART A *PRISON CAMP*... IMPRISONED HIS EXPERIMENTS IN THAT HORRID "WAREHOUSE"... THIS CITY USED TO BE SO BEAUTIFUL... CANNOT THE ARCHON BE MADE TO PAY?
FREEDOM FOR OUR PEOPLE MUST BE ENOUGH, DUCHESS. IT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR ME.
OFFICIALLY LUTZANY'S OBSERVATIONAL HOSPITAL, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS "THE WAREHOUSE."
GOVERNMENT PROPERTY KEEP OUT
HERE ARE HOUSED THE MORE PROMISING FRUIT OF THE ARCHON'S EFFORTS TO REPEAT THE EXPERIMENT THAT CREATED HIMSELF. NO ONE ENTERS WILLINGLY...
...AND FEW WOULD BELIEVE THAT ONE, HAVING ESCAPED, WOULD RETURN.
ISAAC!; PUFF, YOU HAVE BEEN GONE FAR *TOO LONG*! THE GUARDS WILL BEGIN TO *SUSPECT*!

IT WAS NECESSARY, SCRUB. THE SEEDS FOR REVOLUTION HAVE BEEN PLANTED. NOW WE MUST WAIT
WILL THERE BE A PLACE FOR SCRUB, ISAAC?
YES. A VERY IMPORTANT PLACE
AND WHAT OF THEM, ISAAC? THEY WISH TO PARTICIPATE, AS WELL
NO. THEY HAVE DONE THEIR PART, SCRUB. LET THEM WAIT OUT THE REVOLUTION HERE...
THEY HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH UNDER THE KNIVES OF THE ARCHON'S SURGEONS..
ONE SIDE, DUMMY! LET YOUR BETTERS PASS!
WHAT USE IS THERE IN TALKING TO HIM? YOU'LL SOONER GET AN ANSWER FROM THE DROPPINGS OF A MULE!
HAHAHA
FREEDOM WILL BE ENOUGH, HE TELLS HIMSELF. FREEDOM WILL BE ENOUGH.

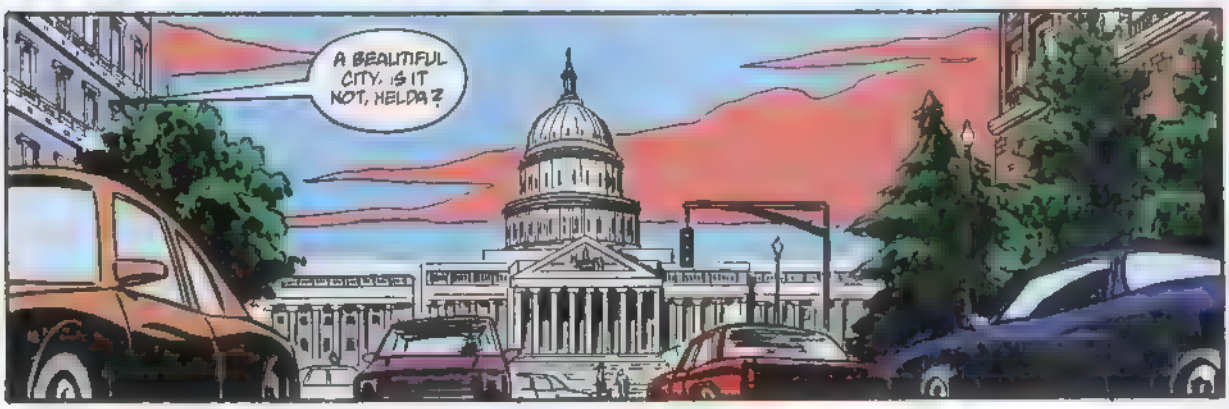

ALL GOES WELL HERE, ARCHON NO, THE MASKED TERRORIST HAS NOT YET BEEN CAPTURED, BUT I EXPECT DEVELOPMENTS SOON.

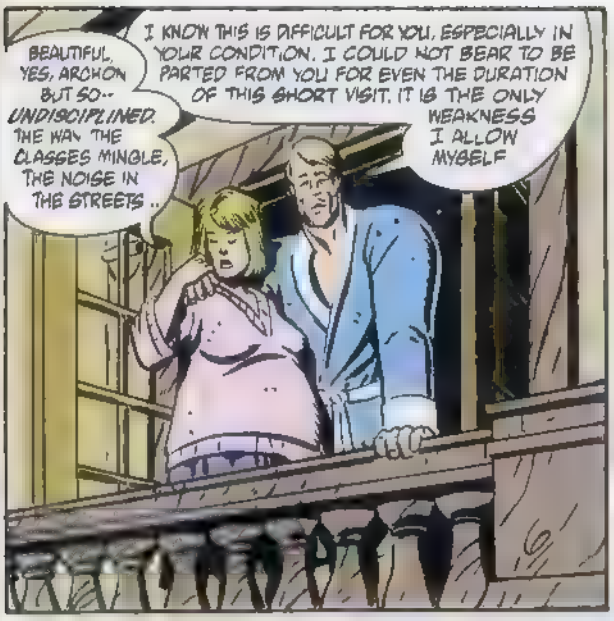
YES, ALL IS READY FOR YOUR ADDRESS TOMORROW EVENING. THE PEOPLE ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO IT-- AS AM I VERY WELL, SIR, WE'LL SPEAK TOMORROW
TELL THE ARCHON I WISH TO --


DID YOU SPEAK, DOCTOR?
NO, EBERHARDT. BUT DO YOU NOT THINK THE ARCHON WOULD HAVE WISHED TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT THE HIJACKED SHIPMENT OF NERVE GAS?


THE ARCHON HAS ENOUGH ON HIS MIND, DOCTOR. SUCH DOMESTIC MATTERS ARE MY RESPONSIBILITY!
OF COURSE. AND I'M SURE YOU WILL EXECUTE YOUR DUTY AS YOU SEE IT...

AS WILL I.


A BEAUTIFUL CITY, IS IT NOT, HELDA?


BEAUTIFUL, YES, ARCHON BUT SO-- UNDISCIPLINED. THE WAY THE CLASSES MINGLE, THE NOISE IN THE STREETS ..
I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR CONDITION. I COULD NOT BEAR TO BE PARTED FROM YOU FOR EVEN THE DURATION OF THIS SHORT VISIT. IT IS THE ONLY WEAKNESS I ALLOW MYSELF

SOON YOU WILL BE BACK IN LUTZANY SOON YOU WILL FULFILL ALL OF MY DREAMS
AND ALL OF MINE, AS WELL

YOU ARE A SUPERIOR WOMAN, HELDA.
YOU REALIZE HOW FORTUNATE YOU ARE

WAITRESS, WE ARE READY TO ORDER NOW.

TELL ME, IS THE VEAL FRESH? THE LAST TIME I ATE VEAL HERE I WAS--
ARE YOU FINALLY OFF THAT PHONE?

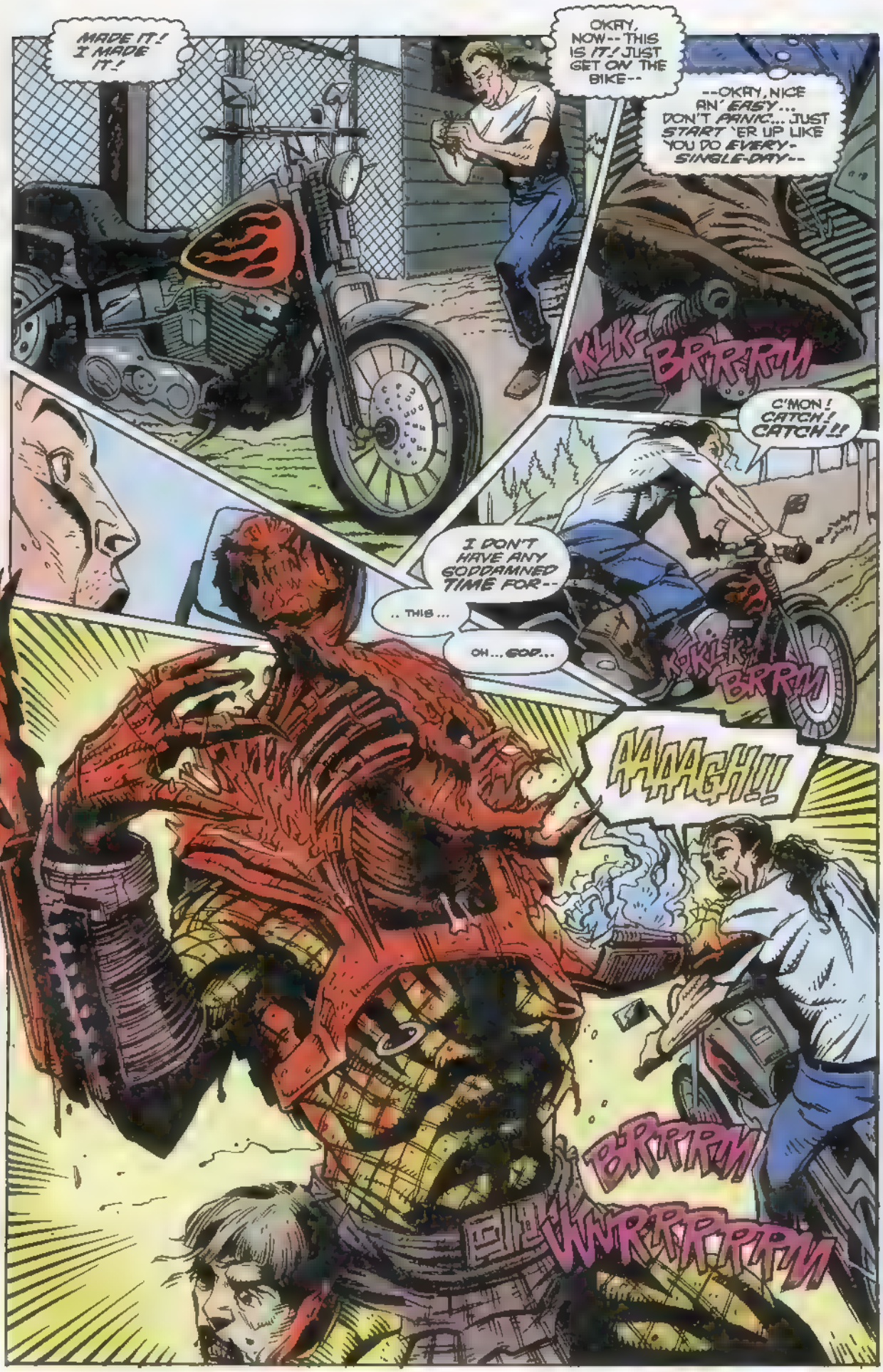
WAITRESS--!

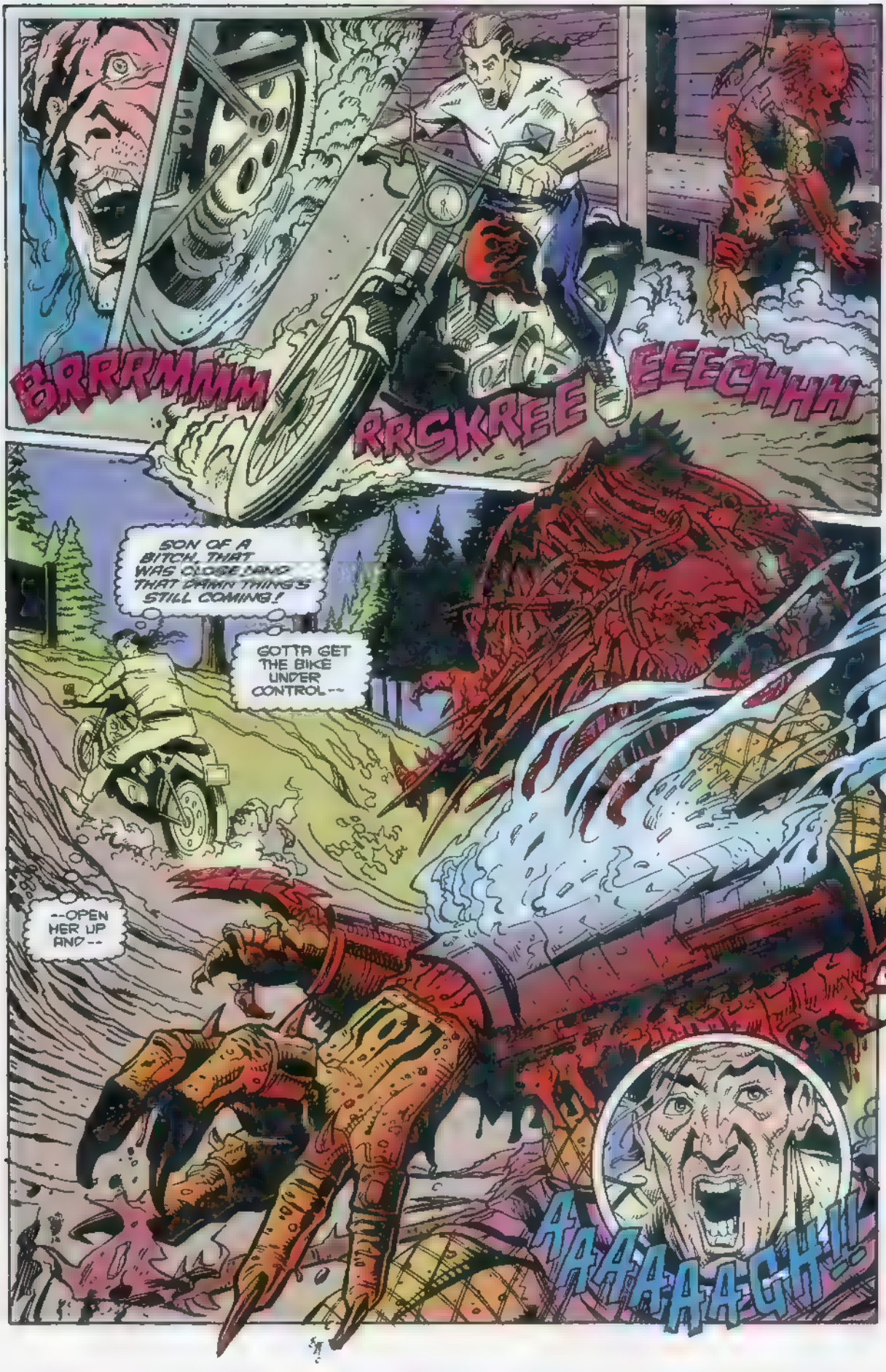
LARISSA, YOUR CUSTOMERS--!
THIS IS IMPORTANT, YOU OLD GOAT!
IT'S ME. YES, I'M AT THIS DREADFUL JOB--IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I CAN PHONE I HAVE NEWS...
TOMORROW--WHEN THE ARCHON ADDRESSES THE NATION--THE MASKED TERRORIST WILL INTERRUPT THE MESSAGE THIS WILL BE A SIGNAL FOR THE PFA TO MOUNT AN ARMED INSURRECTION!
YOU ARE CERTAIN OF THIS?
OF COURSE. I HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF MAKING MYSELF AS VALUABLE AS POSSIBLE--TO THE GOVERNMENT.
..AND TO YOU, PERSONALLY.
I ASSURE YOU, I APPRECIATE YOUR DEVOTION TO BOTH CAUSES, LARISSA.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

PREDATOR

BAD BLOOD • PART 3

RYAAR
AAR
CRRAA
RAAAAAR GRUFF-RAAOWRR-YIPE-RRRRR
HUFF HUFF
DAMN! THIS IS THE LONG WAY BACK!
NO TELLING HOW MUCH TIME THE DOGS ARE GIVING ME--
AAARROOOYIPE!
OH, HELL...


MADE IT! I MADE IT!
OKAY, NOW--THIS IS IT! JUST GET ON THE BIKE--
--OKAY, NICE AN' EASY... DON'T PANIC... JUST START 'ER UP LIKE YOU DO EVERY-SINGLE-DAY--
KLK-BRRRRM
C'MON! CATCH! CATCH!!
I DON'T HAVE ANY GODDAMNED TIME FOR--
.. THIS ...
OH... GOD...
KTKLK-BRRRM
AAAAGH!!
BRRRRM
WWRRRRRRM


BRRRMMM
RRSKREE
EEECHHH
SON OF A BITCH, THAT WAS CLOSE! AND THAT DAMN THING'S STILL COMING!
GOTTA GET THE BIKE UNDER CONTROL--
--OPEN HER UP AND--
AAAAAA-GH!!!

KRA-KA-B-KRAK
AREA
KING
OOOF!
:NNGHHK:
:UFFF HEAD'S FLOATIN' .. THINK MY RIB'S CRACKED.
--CAN'T BELIEVE I HIT THE FREAKING SIGN!
GOTTA MOVE, BEFORE THAT THING--
REAARGHHH
--GETS UP HERE--
SPUT-SPUTTER
OH-MANNNN .
DAMN! BIKE'S DAMAGED FROM THE CRASH-- CAN'T GET IT UP TO SPEED!
THAT BASTARD'S GONNA NAIL ME!!
NOW WHAT'S HE DOING?
BEEP
BIP

CHRIST! HE'S ACTIVATING THAT INVISIBILITY EFFECT I SAW HIM USING IN THE WOODS!!
WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA DO NOW?!
ALL RIGHT! SHOULD'VE BOUGHT AMERICAN, EINSTEIN!
SHPAMF
LUCKY BREAK, THAT GIZMO OF HIS BLOWIN'-- MUST'VE CLOGGED FROM ALL THAT PAINT I SHOT INTO IT--
Uh,oh-- HE'S PISSED NOW--
DAMN BIKE!
MOVE OR I'M DEAD YOU PIECE OF--
BRRRAAWRRRR
--SHWHOAAAH!
BAROOOWM
whoa.. WHOA-- THANK GOD AND THE U.S. OF A FOR THE HARLEY DAVIDSON!
UP YOURS, CALAMARI FACE!! IT'S THE WIDE OPEN ROAD FOR M--

KA-BRUNK
SPASH
DOO CHICK LANE
REEEECHH
I... I DIDN'T SEE'M CAME OUTTA NOWHERE...
OH, MAN, DONNY.. WE'RE IN SERIOUS NOW-- THAT DUDE LOOKS AWFUL DEAD--
--ROCK BLOCK OF BAD COMPANY, HERE ON K-NRR, SOUTHERN JERSEY'S HOME OF CLASSIC ROCK, RIGHT AFTER THIS!--
HEY, EVERYONE-- SUMMER'S HERE AND THE HEAT IS ON--
SO JUST POP THE TOP OFF ONE OF THOSE BAD BOYS--
--AND WHEN THE SUMMER'S GOT YOUR TASTEBUDS HANKERIN' FOR COLD, CLEAR RELIEF, NOTHING SATISFIES QUITE LIKE DYER'S GOLD BEER--
AND SAY, AHHHHH-- DYER'S GOLD REFRESHES!
HELLO... THIS IS GOVERNOR ETHAN GRIMES.
DID YOU KNOW THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE TOURIST IN NEW JERSEY?

LUCKY... BASTARD...
...YOU COULDN'T CATCH ME. TRUCK GOT ME... AMERICAN .. TRUCK. BUILT FORD TOUGH...
...LOUSY FOREIGNER--
SPITH
--WHY NOT LIFT YOUR OWN SPIRITS WITH A NEW JERSEY FAMILY VACATION?
A SMILE ON YOUR FACE IS GUARANTEED--
SLISH
--SO COME ON DOWN THE GARDEN STATE--
KREEYAHHH
--AND LET US STAY-- "WELCOME, AND ENJOY YOUR STAY IN NEW JERSEY!"
WE HOPE IT'S A LONG ONE!
A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF TOURISM AND TRAVEL...

COMMENTS

10956 SE MAIN ST, MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

It's not my fault. Really! It all started out as a simple prank and now Randy Stradley's stuck in San Diego with nothing but a pink fuzzy loincloth, a 5x7 glossy photo of Gilbert Gottfried, and a copy of the soundtrack to **2000 Motels** *on CD. He called me on the phone, emergency collect, interrupting one of my more productive phone-therapy sessions. "Edward," he says calmly. "I'm stuck. You'll have to write the letter column for the next issue of* **Dark Horse Comics**." *What can I say? I'm a dedicated sort of guy. He said please. So let's start with Chris Connelly, who offered the spookiest greeting this month.*

"Godzilla is excellent..."

Dear Shooters,

I like the idea of ***DHC*** and I support it. I prefer that you keep the movie tie-ins in here, and put the original stuff in ***Dark Horse Presents***. There are some problems however. The art seems rushed in certain tales. RoboCop and James Bond's art was lacking in any detail, and the people were a little misshapen. It sometimes just doesn't fit the style of the character.

I agree with Marc Johnson in that the stories (he uses Indiana Jones as an example) are sometimes a little too far-fetched, too "comic-booky" for the characters. Don't make their worlds too fantastic

Currently, your two most successful entries are Predator and Godzilla. The art of the former has quite an African feel to it. Godzilla is excellent, but two parts?!?

Here lies your biggest problem — why are most stories only four parts? That's like a one-issue comic! Things seem rushed in too many of these tales. James Bond is the perfect example. Some very interesting concepts, but it seems like he is getting pushed around the world too fast. This story could easily be twice as long, and would benefit from it. Predator, if it follows the typical pattern (hero defeats Predator, when no one else can), could be shorter. I have no idea what kind of story you'll do with Godzilla in 14 pages.

Let loose with the format a little. Be creative. More James Bond, ***Star Wars*** (solo — not Han — stories), definitely more Godzilla, more Jones, and more RoboCop and Predator if the stories are original and good. Thanks for listening; I hoped I helped.

Chris Connelly
7008 Appoline
Dearborn, MI 48126

Thanks for writing, Chris. Squeezing a ten- or twelve-page story into six or eight pages can be pretty challenging sometimes, but we do our best. Randy and I are trying very hard to find stories for **DHC** *that are exciting, compelling, well-written, beautifully illustrated, and of course, loads of fun. As if that isn't enough, we need at least three a month! Thanks for sticking with us this far and keep on us about what you want to see*

Dear Long Shots,

You've a shortage of letters? Disgusting! So I'll do my part to remedy the situation.

In the past, I've only occasionally bought issues of your parent title, ***Dark Horse Presents***. Although I enjoyed much of what I saw, I didn't become a regular reader because there was always a couple of strips partway through their story arc; I neither had the patience nor the money to stick with the comic until such stories ran their course and new ones began in their place.

Then ***Dark Horse Comics*** gave me the golden opportunity to collect an anthology from the first issue, so there was no excuse not to buy it! The other factor which attracted me was the full-color strips. Though this is a minor point, for me — I collect several black-and-white independent comics — I know many readers ignore anything which doesn't burst with every shade and hue you can imagine. I'm sure this was at the forefront of your minds when you were planning ***Dark Horse Comics***' launch and I hope sales are bouncing along as a result.

With the mixture of writers, artists, characters, and stories ***Dark Horse Comics*** presents (sounds like a merger!), quality varies from issue to issue, and I'm afraid it's your fabled movie licensed characters who often mar your comic. I'm not, never have been, and never will be a fan of James Bond, so recent issues have suffered as a result. Before that, the Indiana Jones story failed to deliver the speed, intrigue, and gung-ho action of the movies (a bit like the "Young Indiana Jones Chronicles" TV series, but that's another story!).

Don't be disheartened because I've enjoyed the RoboCop, Predator, and Aliens stories, and the only complaint I have about the *Tales of the Jedi* and Godzilla strips is that they were too damn short! I was led to believe, from both comic news press and Dark Horse, that *Tales of the Jedi* would be a major part of ***Dark Horse Comics***' line-up. Three issues and no word of further ***Star Wars*** strips is just not good enough!

The original, non-licensed stories have similarly varied in appeal, from the faceless Time Cop to Mad Dog's glorious despair and the entertaining mystery assassin, X. There's yet to be a real winner in the bunch, but they're getting better all the time.

Obviously, different things appeal to different people, so don't cancel any plans for further Bond and Indy strips to please the few or pack the pages with ***Star Wars***, or indeed act on anything I've put in this letter. Just continue mixing and matching creative teams, work to make ***Dark Horse Comics*** better and earn the respect of the comics-buying public.

Warren Lapworth
8 Merino Avenue
Northfield, Birmingham
B31 4BT
England

"Better all the time" is just the way I like it, Warren. You'll be happy to hear, as will many other fans of **Star Wars**, *that another* **Star Wars** *story is on its way, called* **Droids**. *As you found in this issue, in addition to licensed characters, we've brought in*

an old friend to long-time Dark Horse readers. **The Mark**. *For the future, we have planned a glorious mix, with new faces and old, so keep your eyeballs peeled*

Long Shots:

The cover was one of the best-looking ones on the rack this month"!

These Aliens stories are wearing thin on me, but I know lots of people like them; they just kind of give me déjà-vu

I liked Godzilla. Even though he kinda' just sits there most of the time, Mr. Stradley explodes the story with a great supporting cast

The Predator story left me cold also.. OK. OK, I didn't even read it.

Ditto for James Bond

So, I only liked one story. I often like all the stories and I guess that's why anthologies work

Thank you,
Toby Mays
P O Box 971
Eureka, CA 95502-0971

As you said, Toby, that's why anthologies work. I can't think of a better way to get such a varied batch of stories out there. I'm glad you've found something you like. Please keep us posted as we go along. All we want to do is make sure everybody's happy with everything Sounds like a good, solid goal to me What do you think?

Dear Dark Horses,

I have been enjoying ***DHC*** since issue #1! In fact, I buy two copies of every month's issue. I've enjoyed all the Aliens stories and the Predator stories. Keep giving us new stories from these two great species. I have all the Aliens except the first two series and all the Predator series except the first one. How about more issues every couple of months on James Bond? I have, over the last few months, been enjoying "Light of my Death." I think X should get his own monthly title. How about more ***Star Wars*** stories? Also, how about some stories in ***DHC*** on Heartbreakers, Delia & Celia, Black Cross, or Trekker? It would be nice to see more stories on these great characters

I will continue to enjoy the great stories and characters monthly in ***DHC***

Sincerely,
Kurt Miller
823 North Locust Street
Hazleton, PA 18201

As I mentioned earlier, keep your eyes peeled for our new **Star Wars** *story, Kurt. I'm sure you'll love it.* **Dark Horse Comics** *will, on occasion, feature company-owned and high-profile creator projects, such as the ones you mentioned above. Rest assured you'll get plenty of advance warning so you can be ready for them. They will most definitely knock your socks off!*

Dear Randy and Edward,

Re ***Dark Horse Comics*** #11:

Godzilla: I missed the ***Color Special***, as I lost interest in Godzilla long ago. This really didn't do anything for me, and that'll be all I say on it.

Predator: Seems to me that whenever there's a Predtale in this book, it's always the highlight. Even though the concept of Preds in various periods of time doesn't always work, it does here simply because it has been established that (I think) the Preds were bred for the jungle and in Africa, they're right at home (even if there's really only one). Alcatena's absolutely perfect here, but can you go a step further and get Tim Truman to do a Predtale?

James Bond: First off, where's ***A Silent Armageddon*** 3 & 4? While those issues are running late, the page count to this story is ridiculous. Six pages? That's not enough, because a Bond story isn't supposed to go *this* fast. Almost makes me want to swear off 007. *Almost.*

Aliens: Four pages don't really do this short enough justice. It's hard just trying to follow through the story in the mind's eye. Would that Mark Nelson were the regular Aliens artist, though, as this equals the Predator chapter earlier. A saver.

See you in thirty
Jacob Gilbert
118 4th Street, Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

Jacob, don't swear off **007** *just yet.* **A Silent Armageddon** *and* **Dark Horse Comics** *operate under different schedules.* **A Silent Armageddon** *#3 and #4 should already be on your retailers' shelves by the time you read this*

Dear Randy Stradley,

I enjoyed reading "Godzilla: Blast from the Past" part one of ***Dark Horse Comics*** #10 and the ***Godzilla Color Special***.

I was hoping that you can make another ***Godzilla Color Special*** comic book, with the G-Force team helping Godzilla fight against alien invaders and a space monster from Planet X.

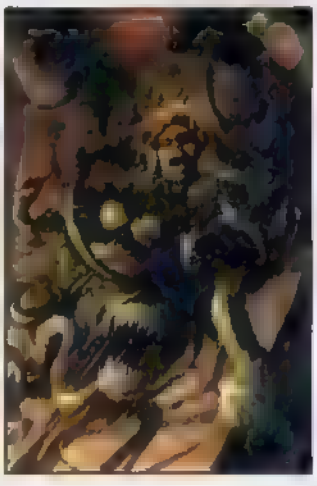
I can't wait for next year's Godzilla having his own American movie and I can't wait to see it! I hope you will enjoy the movie next year. TriStar Pictures will be making it

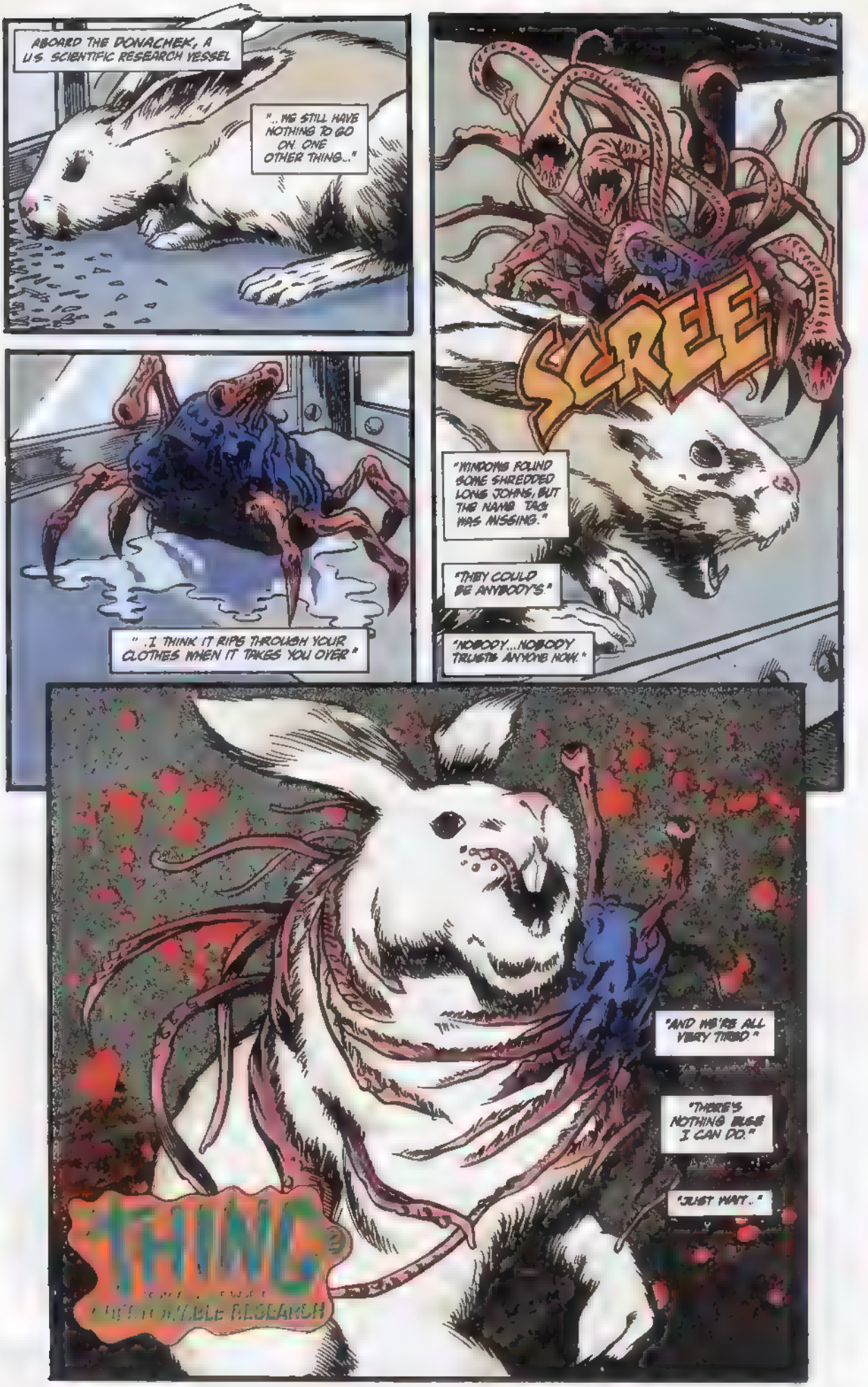
I hope someday in the future we will meet in person. I'm signing off for now

Truly yours,
James R. Gorman Jr
38 Morris Road
Schenectady, NY 12304

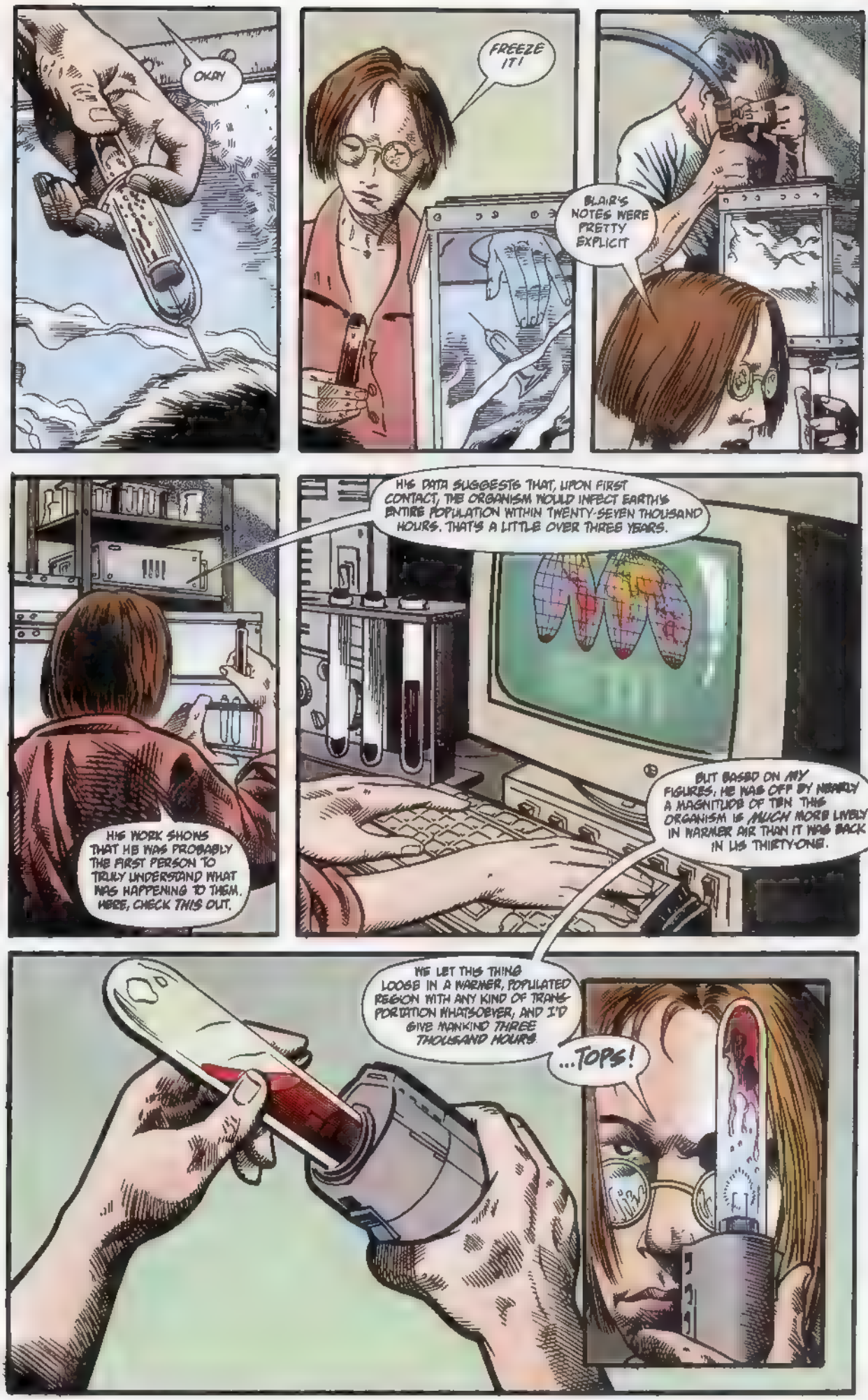
James, how can anything be better than **Godzilla vs. Biollante**? *It's difficult to find an adversary as cunning and deadly as a giant rosebush, but I'll keep my fingers crossed.*

Next month, in **Dark Horse Comics** *#15, part two of* **The Mark**, *by Mike W. Barr and Brad Rader, whirls to a frenzied finale in the middle of one of history's bloodiest revolutions. Although the Archon is now exiled from his country, he has a secret plan that no revolution in the world can stop. Part three of* **The Thing from Another World: Questionable Research**, *by Edward Martin III, Ted Naifeh, and William "Moose" Baumann continues as the scientific team aboard the* Donachek *realizes that their research subject has its own hidden and terrifying agenda. Also in* **DHC** *#15, we introduce Gerald Coile, a smuggler of, shall we say, 'unusual products'. In part one of* **Aliens: Cargo**, *Coile discovers that even smugglers have a retirement plan, but unfortunately, it's permanent. Twenty-eight kinetic, frenetic pages of story, barely restrained by a stunning cover painting by John Higgins. Don't miss* **Dark Horse Comics** *#15, shipping November 30, 1993.*

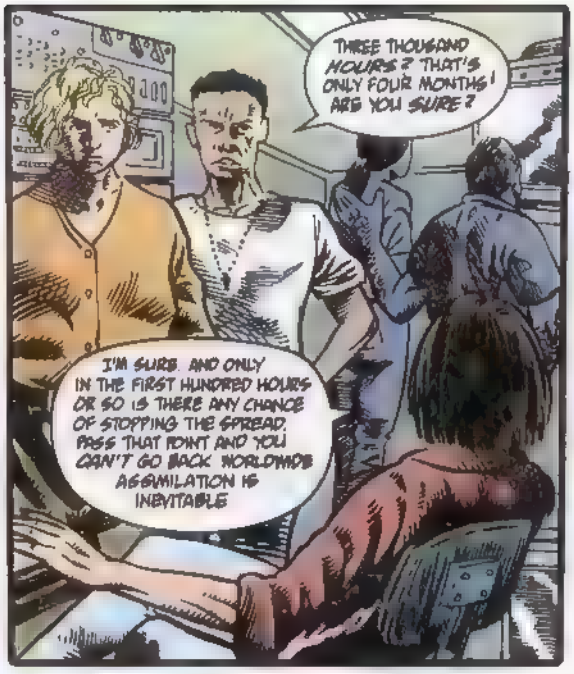


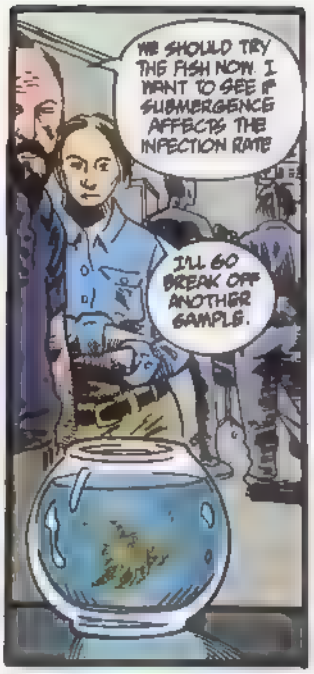

ABOARD THE DONACHEK, A U.S. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH VESSEL
"..WE STILL HAVE NOTHING TO GO ON. ONE OTHER THING.."
SCREE!
"WINDOWS FOUND SOME SHREDDED LONG JOHNS, BUT THE NAME TAGS WAS MISSING."
"THEY COULD BE ANYBODY'S."
"NOBODY...NOBODY TRUSTS ANYONE NOW."
"...I THINK IT RIPS THROUGH YOUR CLOTHES WHEN IT TAKES YOU OVER"
"AND WE'RE ALL VERY TIRED."
"THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO."
"JUST WAIT.."
THING 2
ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

R.J. MACREADY, HELICOPTER PILOT, U.S. OUTPOST NUMBER THIRTY-ONE
CLICK
THAT'S ALL THERE IS, I'M AFRAID
GOOD GOD.
AND TO THINK THAT ALL HAPPENED IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS IT'S CLEVER AND EFFICIENT! SPEAKING OF WHICH...
HOW'S BLAKE DOING?
WE'VE LET THIS INFECTION CYCLE RUN AN ADDITIONAL THREE MINUTES LONGER THAN LAST NIGHT'S TEST. IT'S PRETTY CLOSE TO FINISHED. MAYBE ANOTHER MINUTE OR TWO AND WE WOULD HAVE A PERFECT COPY OF A RABBIT. TWENTY MORE SECONDS IN THIS CYCLE BEFORE WE HAVE TO STOP.
FASCINATING
YOU HEAR THAT, HOOPER? TWENTY SECONDS IS THE NITROGEN READY?
READY.
MARION, YOU WANT TO DRAW SAMPLES NOW OR WAIT UNTIL WE LOCK THE INFECTION DOWN?
WELL, I'D RATHER IT BE FROZEN FIRST, BUT

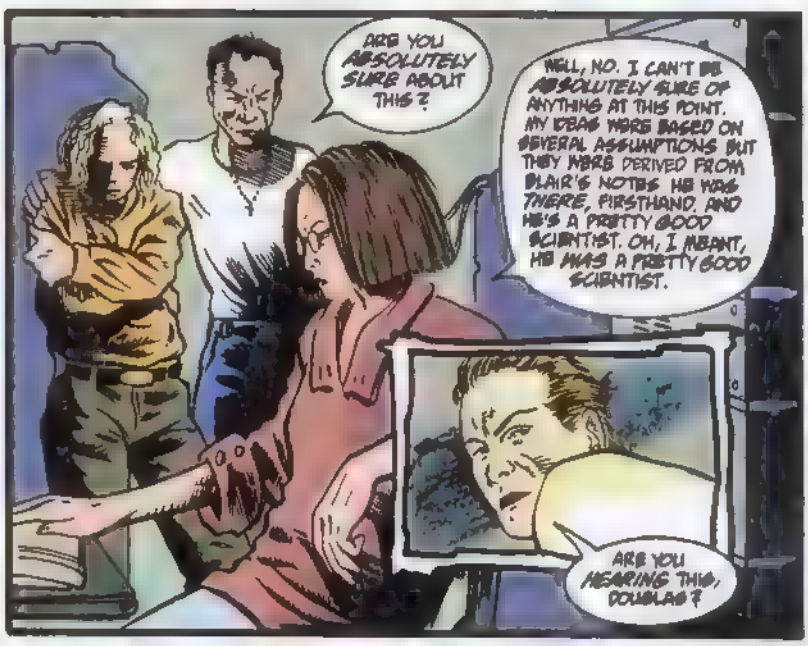

OKAY
FREEZE IT!
BLAIR'S NOTES WERE PRETTY EXPLICIT
HIS WORK SHOWS THAT HE WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST PERSON TO TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO THEM. HERE, CHECK THIS OUT.
HIS DATA SUGGESTS THAT, UPON FIRST CONTACT, THE ORGANISM WOULD INFECT EARTH'S ENTIRE POPULATION WITHIN TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND HOURS. THAT'S A LITTLE OVER THREE YEARS.
BUT BASED ON MY FIGURES, HE WAS OFF BY NEARLY A MAGNITUDE OF TEN. THIS ORGANISM IS MUCH MORE LIVELY IN WARMER AIR THAN IT WAS BACK IN HIS THIRTY-ONE.
WE LET THIS THING LOOSE IN A WARMER, POPULATED REGION WITH ANY KIND OF TRANSPORTATION WHATSOEVER, AND I'D GIVE MANKIND THREE THOUSAND HOURS.
...TOPS!

THEN I GUESS WE BETTER BE CAREFUL!


THREE THOUSAND HOURS? THAT'S ONLY FOUR MONTHS! ARE YOU SURE?
I'M SURE. AND ONLY IN THE FIRST HUNDRED HOURS OR SO IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF STOPPING THE SPREAD. PASS THAT POINT AND YOU CAN'T GO BACK. WORLDWIDE ASSIMILATION IS INEVITABLE


WE SHOULD TRY THE FISH NOW. I WANT TO SEE IF SUBMERGENCE AFFECTS THE INFECTION RATE
I'LL GO BREAK OFF ANOTHER SAMPLE.

HOOPER, I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD. THIS IS A LOT BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT.

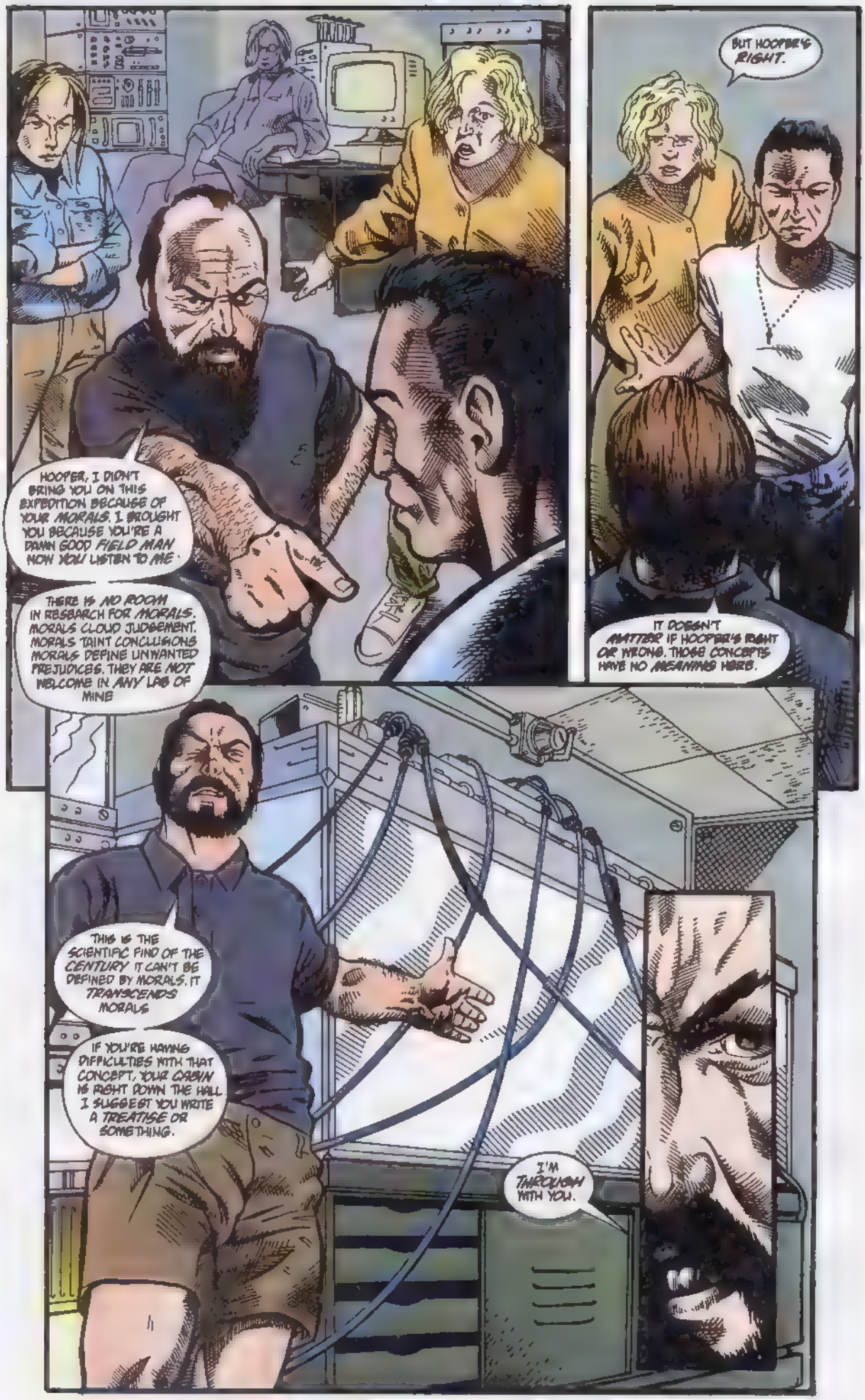

ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE ABOUT THIS?
WELL, NO. I CAN'T BE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF ANYTHING AT THIS POINT. MY IDEAS WERE BASED ON SEVERAL ASSUMPTIONS BUT THEY WERE DERIVED FROM BLAIR'S NOTES. HE WAS THERE, FIRSTHAND, AND HE'S A PRETTY GOOD SCIENTIST. OH, I MEANT, HE WAS A PRETTY GOOD SCIENTIST.
ARE YOU HEARING THIS, DOUGLAS?

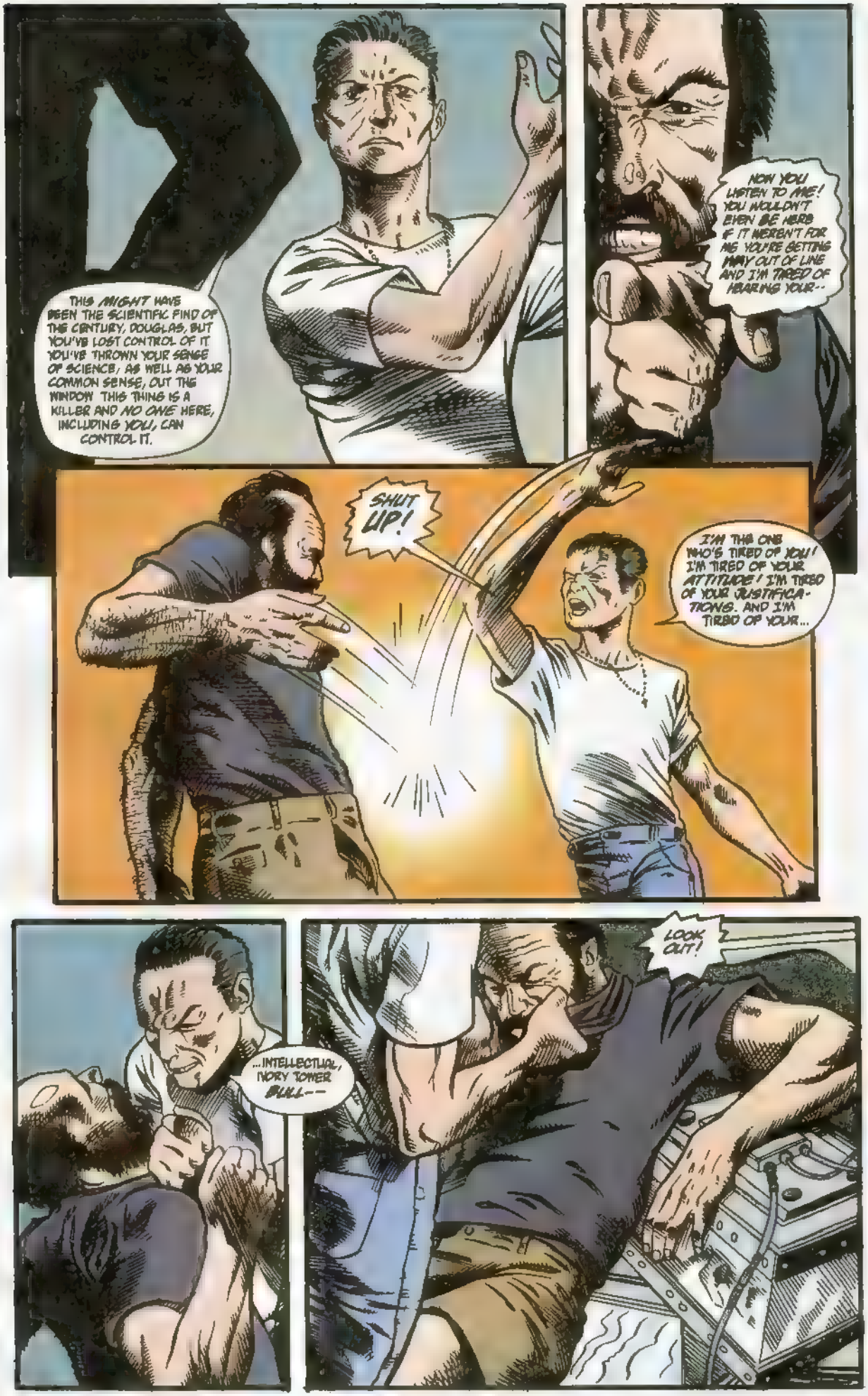
I WONDER IF IT'LL FORM SOME KIND OF INTERMEDIATE--
WHAT, HOOPER? AM I HEARING WHAT?

MARION'S FIGURES. WE'VE GOT DYNAMITE ON OUR HANDS HERE! THIS THING IS DANGEROUS TO ALL LIFE ON EARTH!

SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT, HOOPER?

WHAT'S MY POINT? MY POINT IS THAT WE CAN'T GO ON. WE HAVE TO STOP THIS
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DOUGLAS, JUST HEAR ME OUT, OKAY? THIS ISN'T "MR. WIZARD" ANYMORE. THIS ORGANISM IS DEADLY, MORE SO THAN ANY BOMB OR VIRUS, AND WE'RE NOT WORKING IN A VACUUM HERE. WE HAVE EARTH'S SURVIVAL IN OUR HANDS
THAT'S A VERY NOBLE SENTIMENT AND AN EXCELLENT IMAGE TO KEEP US CAREFUL.
I DON'T MEAN WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL. I MEAN WE SHOULD STOP
NOW WHY SHOULD WE DO THAT?
BECAUSE WE'RE HUMAN. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US, AND IF WE KEEP WORKING WITH THIS CREATURE, ONE OF US IS GOING TO MAKE A MISTAKE AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, PFFT! THE END OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT. DON'T YOU SEE?
WE'RE MORALLY OBLIGATED TO STOP NOW. WE HAVE TO DESTROY ALL THESE SAMPLES. WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO LIS THIRTY-ONE AND MAKE SURE NOTHING IS LEFT THERE. EITHER WE HAVE TO BE CERTAIN THIS CREATURE IS ERASED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH!


HOOPER, I DIDN'T BRING YOU ON THIS EXPEDITION BECAUSE OF YOUR MORALS. I BROUGHT YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A DAMN GOOD FIELD MAN. NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME.
THERE IS NO ROOM IN RESEARCH FOR MORALS. MORALS CLOUD JUDGEMENT. MORALS TAINT CONCLUSIONS. MORALS DEFINE UNWANTED PREJUDICES. THEY ARE NOT WELCOME IN ANY LAB OF MINE.
BUT HOOPER'S RIGHT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HOOPER'S RIGHT OR WRONG. THOSE CONCEPTS HAVE NO MEANING HERE.
THIS IS THE SCIENTIFIC FIND OF THE CENTURY. IT CAN'T BE DEFINED BY MORALS. IT TRANSCENDS MORALS.
IF YOU'RE HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THAT CONCEPT, YOUR CABIN IS RIGHT DOWN THE HALL. I SUGGEST YOU WRITE A TREATISE OR SOMETHING.
I'M THROUGH WITH YOU.


THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE SCIENTIFIC FIND OF THE CENTURY, DOUGLAS, BUT YOU'VE LOST CONTROL OF IT. YOU'VE THROWN YOUR SENSE OF SCIENCE, AS WELL AS YOUR COMMON SENSE, OUT THE WINDOW. THIS THING IS A KILLER AND NO ONE HERE, INCLUDING YOU, CAN CONTROL IT.
NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME! YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME. YOU'RE GETTING MARY OUT OF LINE AND I'M TIRED OF HEARING YOUR--
SHUT UP!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S TIRED OF YOU! I'M TIRED OF YOUR ATTITUDE! I'M TIRED OF YOUR JUSTIFICATIONS. AND I'M TIRED OF YOUR...
...INTELLECTUAL, IVORY TOWER BULL--
LOOK OUT!

CRASH!
SHIT! JESUS.
TO BE CONTINUED.

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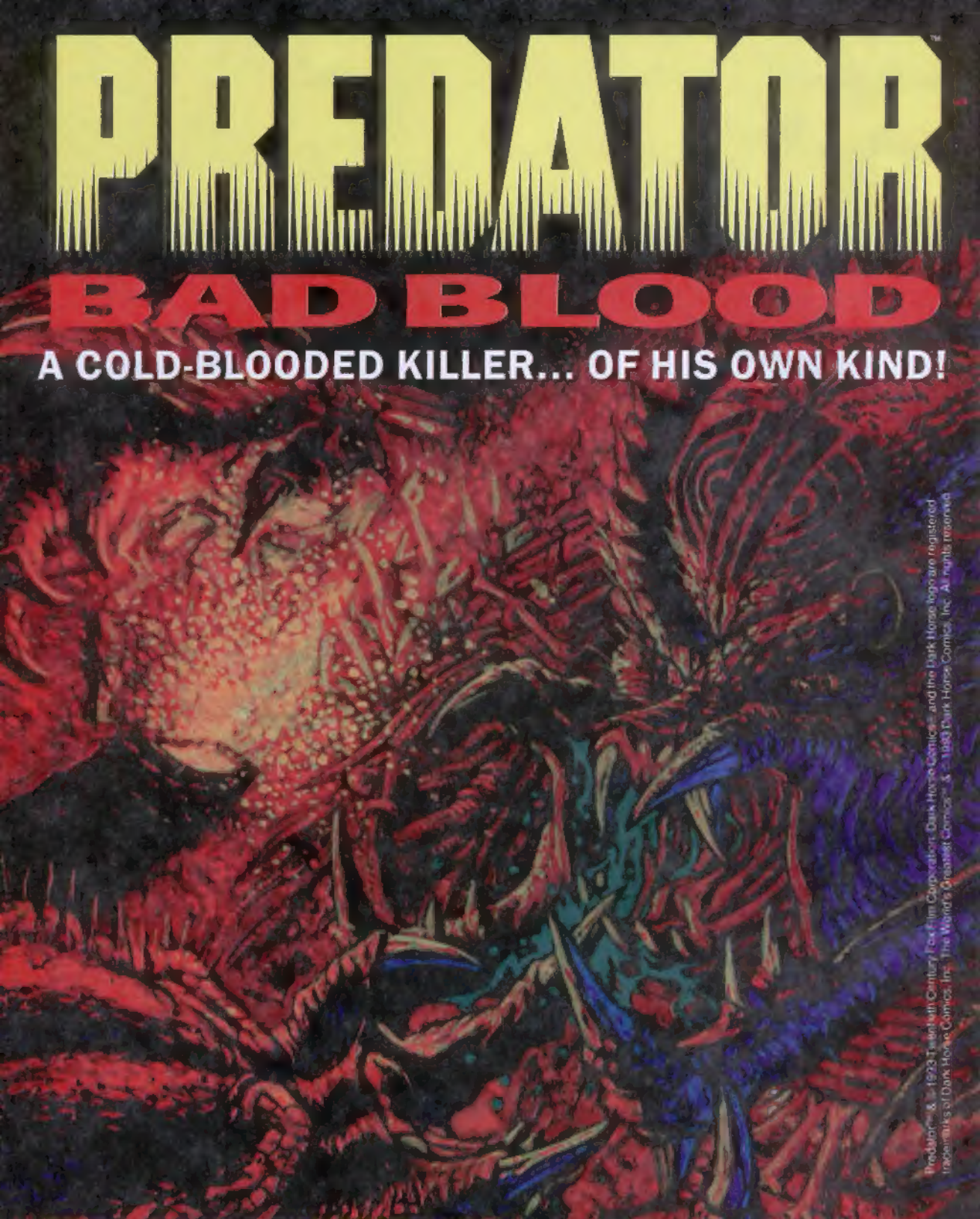
A COLD-BLOODED KILLER... OF HIS OWN KIND!



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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!™

FINISH LINE

Read the following list. Tell me when it ceases to sound familiar.

1. Seven of the top creators in comics, all of whom previously produced work for Marvel, band together to form their own imprint.

2. The creators announce eight different titles that will feature the logo for this new imprint on their covers.

3. Their plan is to publish their own characters under this imprint, and to enjoy all of the advantages that come from owning and controlling one's own creations.

4. Some of the creators will be involved with several different books, while others will concentrate their efforts on a single title.

5. Several of the characters will cross over into one another's books, but other characters will exist in their own, self-contained worlds.

6. The new imprint will serve as a stamp of quality, alerting comics readers to the fact that the comic bearing that imprint contains the best work the creator, or creators, can possibly produce.

7. All eight of these books will be published by Dark Horse.

The imprint in question is, of course, **Legend**, and the creators involved are **Arthur Adams**, **John Byrne**, **Paul Chadwick**, **Geof Darrow**, **Dave Gibbons**, **Mike Mignola**, and **Frank Miller**. If you thought I was talking about another imprint, or other creators, you obviously haven't been paying attention. I know, I suckered you by listing all of the surface similarities between Legend and Image, but the similarities are not half as important as the differences. As you know, Dark Horse has always preached the gospel of individual vision, and we at Dark Horse are thrilled that Legend members are lending their voices to ours. But, as with any big news in this industry, the rumor network has spread disinformation far and wide (believe me, we've heard some whoppers—like the one about Legend being part of Dark Horse's new superhero line!), so it's time for all loyal Dark Horse readers—and comics fans everywhere—to learn the truth.

Despite the aforementioned similarities, Legend is not Image. Legend is not a publishing company, but an affiliation of creators who share like ideas, ideals, and goals in regard to the comics they create. This doesn't mean that the Legend members will all speak with one voice, or limit themselves to a single genre. On the contrary, Frank Miller will continue to create electrifying crime drama in ***Sin City: A Dame to Kill For***; Paul Chadwick will continue to enlighten and entertain readers with his wonderful ***Concrete*** stories; John Byrne will continue to transcend readers' expectations of superhero comics in his ***Next Men*** and in his upcoming ***Danger Unlimited***; Art Adams will amaze and amuse fans with the dimension-spanning adventures of ***Monkeyman and O'Brien***; Dave Gibbons and Frank Miller will blend science fiction, social commentary, and wartime heroics in ***Martha Washington Goes to War***; Mike Mignola will take you into the realm of the unexplainable with his inexplicably wild ***Hellboy***; and Geof Darrow will step up to the plate and knock superhero, science fiction, and giant monster movie conventions—not to mention your eyeballs—right out of the park in his and Frank Miller's ***The Big Guy and Rusty the Boy Robot***. One and all, the Legend members are dedicated to giving their readers the absolute best in story, art, and entertainment value.

And, since Legend is merely an identifying imprint, the creators involved are free to move their creations, or take new projects to any publisher they choose. The fact that every one of the Legend seven has chosen Dark Horse as home base for his initial project is a matter of pride for all of us at the company.

More importantly, though, for comics fans, the new freedom afforded the Legend creators portends a new era in reading enjoyment. A number of the Legend creators are discovering, for the first time, what we at Dark Horse have always held to be true: When creators control their own creations—when they have vested interests in the future of those creations—they are naturally more likely to produce their best work.

And, rest assured, it will be *each* creator's best work. The final aspect that sets Legend apart from other similar alliances is that Legend is a closed group, not an expanding empire whose borders become more assailable and less defined as it grows. You'll never see Frank Miller hiring anybody else to take over *Sin City*, or Paul Chadwick opening a studio full of Chadwick imitators to draw *Concrete*. A comic book with the Legend logo on the cover means nothing less than the best work by the medium's best creators. Period. As John Byrne says, "Quality is our creed." Amen.

—Randy Stradley

OCT. CHECKLIST

SHIPPING OCTOBER 12

- ☐ CHEVAL NOIR #47
- ☐ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #78
- ☐ DEAD IN THE WEST #1
- ☐ JAMES BOND 007: IN SILENT ARMAGEDDON #4
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN: FAITH #1
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN: FAITH POSTERS
- ☐ MARSHAL LAW: CAPE FEAR #2
- ☐ PUMPKINHEAD #2
- ☐ UNIVERSAL MONSTERS: DRACULA
- ☐ VERSION #2.3
- ☐ VORTEX #1
- ☐ VORTEX POSTERS BY RANDALL M. GREEN

SHIPPING OCTOBER 19

- ☐ ALIENS VOLUME 2 #16 (U.K. edition)
- ☐ BLANCHE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD
- ☐ CARAVAN KIDD PART 2 #6
- ☐ FLOATERS #2
- ☐ GRENDEL TALES: FOUR DEVILS, ONE HELL #3
- ☐ THE JAM: URBAN ADVENTURE #6
- ☐ RAY HARRYHAUSEN DINOSAUR PRINT #3
- ☐ ROBOCOP: MORTAL COILS #2
- ☐ STAR WARS: TALES OF THE JEDI #1

SHIPPING OCTOBER 26

- ☐ ALIENS LABYRINTH #2
- ☐ BASIL WOLVERTON'S FANTASTIC FABLES #1
- ☐ DARK HORSE COMICS #14
- ☐ DARK HORSE INSIDER #24
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S JASMINE FIGURINE
- ☐ LUX & ALBY #7
- ☐ THE NEW TWO-FISTED TALES — BOOK TWO
- ☐ THE SHADOW: IN THE COILS OF LEVIATHAN #1
- ☐ THE SHADOW POSTERS BY MIKE KALUTA

SHIPPING NOVEMBER 2

- ☐ ALIENS VOLUME 2 #17 (U.K. edition)
- ☐ CLASSIC STAR WARS #14
- ☐ INDIANA JONES: THUNDER IN THE ORIENT #3
- ☐ ROBOCOP 3 #3

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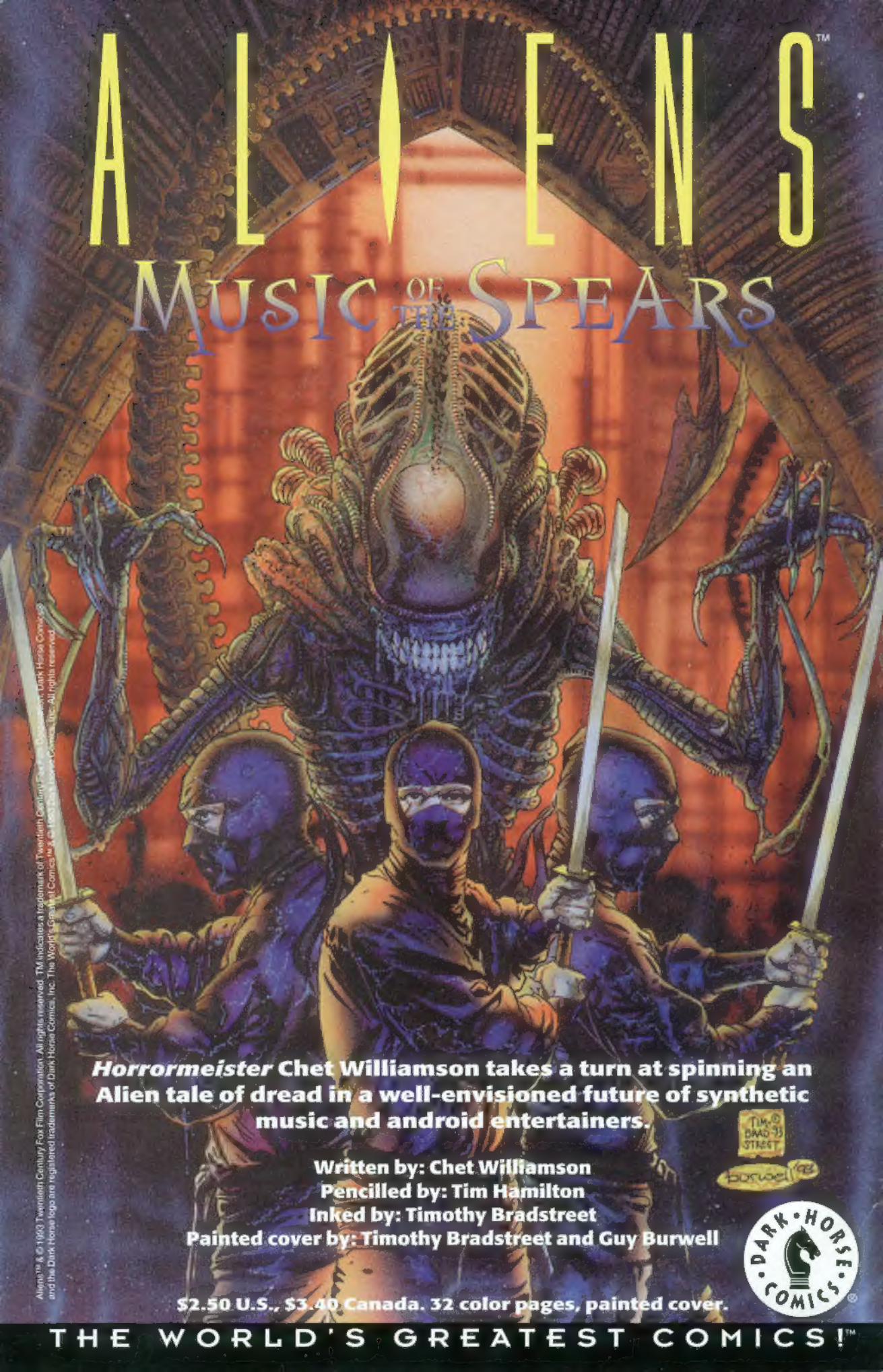

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